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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 21 | Humidity 78% Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain Sensex 80,242 | Nifty 24,334 | Gold 95,730 | Silver 98,000 | Dollar 84.49 | Euro 96.01 | GBP 113.87

CITY / PAGE 4

RISE AND SHINE

As city continues to expand, integrating solar panels into facades of skyscrapers becoming a necessity, experts say

CITY / PAGE 5

WALK THE LINE

AI-enabled cameras at Kempegowda Airport now monitor six traffic violations, including helmetless riding and signal jumping

After yet another gas cylinder leak tragedy, experts stress on need to conduct awareness sessions and making safety inspections of connections mandatory

GAS TROUBLE

More number of LPG accidents reported in rural areas than in urban spaces

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A tragic fire incident triggered by a gas leak during a cylinder change that claimed two lives in the city on Thursday has brought to the fore the need for safety measures while handling LPG yet again.

Officials highlighted the serious risks associated with improper handling of LPG. On Thursday, a gas leak led to a devastating fire, resulting in the deaths of two person and causing critical injuries to four others. Preliminary investigations suggest that the fire was ignited by a lamp after a gas leak went unnoticed during cylinder replacement.

Earlier this year, on January 6, an LPG cylinder explosion in Bommasandra caused significant damage and injuries. In March, a couple sustained severe burns due to an LPG leak in Frazer Town. Additionally, six people, including a child, were injured in an LPG explosion in Abbaiah Reddy Layout near Baiyappanahalli.

Officials and safety reports indicate that such incidents are more common in rural areas, largely due to low awareness, delayed maintenance, and limited access to essential safety resources.

Importance of regular inspections

To reduce the risk of gas leaks and cylinder-related accidents, it is essential to take a proactive approach, experts said. Fire safety experts said regular safety inspections of LPG

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **We've assigned the inspectors concerned to conduct regular mock drills and awareness programmes across rural and urban areas. These sessions cover topics such as what to do during a gas leak, how to respond during a fire, how ignition can occur, and safety measures**
>
> —Fire and Emergency Services Department official

No time for missing dogs

Citizens talk of sour experiences when they approach police with complaints about stolen pets

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Pet parents in the city are a worried lot. With a number of cases of dogs going missing or stolen, several pet owners have complained that authorities are lax about their complaints. While some of the pet parents continue to suffer in silence, a few others have been running from pillar to post seeking tough against dog thieves. They have also announced rewards for those who give information about the whereabouts of their missing pet dogs but not much has worked out.

Madhura of Jayanagar 9th Block has lodged a complaint with Tilaknagar police against unknown people who abducted her four-year-old pet dog Richie on March 12 this year. She told police that a few unknown people abducted her pet dog, worth Rs 10,000, when she had taken it for a walk at 10.30 pm.

The police have registered a first information report (FIR) on March 13, under the Section 304(2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS) 2023. However, the abductors are yet to be nabbed and Richie is still not found. "I have been waiting for the police to find Richie and nab those responsible for his abduction.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Canvas chronicles

Sublime Galleria is organising Whimsical Worlds, artist Badrunissa Irfan's latest exhibition, showcasing a breath-taking collection of paintings that seamlessly blend tradition and modernity. **Where: Sublime Galleria, UB City; When: Opens on May 2**

02 Act to behold

Olympian circus is bringing a circus experience with high-energy acts to entertain audiences. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; When: May 1 to 4, 4.30 pm and 7.30 pm**

03 Grand spectacle

Academy of Music and Nrithya Rangoli Festival is presenting Rama Katha Vismaya, a broadway style grand spectacle that brings together 60 talented artists and cutting-edge techniques to create an immersive experience unlike any other. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; When: May 17 and 18, 6.30 pm**

04 Sparks flying

Aisle Network is bringing the fourth edition of its signature offline series Aisle Experiences. The theme of the event is 'Wine and Sushi Afternoon'. The event is thoughtfully created for like-minded singles who are ready to have meaningful conversations beyond the screen. **Where: Botany Brew and Kitchen, Ashok Nagar; When: May 3, 3 pm to 7 pm**

05 Adventure awaits

Fans will get a special chance to meet Purple Turtle, the beloved star of the animated preschool series and book franchise. From drawing corners and puzzle-solving stations to exciting games, there's something for every young adventurer to enjoy. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: May 3 and May 4, 2 pm**

Take a seat, but why sit for CET again?

As 1,800+ students who secured seats last year reappear for CET this year, concerns over deserving candidates losing their chance

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BANGALORE MIRROR INVESTIGATES

In a development raising eyebrows across Karnataka's academic circles, over 1,800 students who had already secured seats in medical and dental colleges last year appeared once again for the Common Entrance Test (CET) this year, triggering renewed concerns over the ongoing menace of seat blocking in professional courses. According to data from the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), a total of 1,815 candidates, most of whom had previously gained admission through CET 2023, appeared for the CET 2024 exam. Authorities are particularly alarmed by the fact that a significant number of these repeat candidates are already pursuing medical and dental degrees.

This trend has sparked suspicion of a possible revival of the seat blocking scam that was exposed last year

Seat blocking scam suspected

This trend has sparked suspicion of a possible revival of the seat blocking scam that was exposed last year, where students blocked seats in top engineering colleges only to abandon them at the last minute, preventing genuine aspirants from accessing those opportunities. In 2023, an investigation by KEA confirmed that 2,348 students had blocked seats in reputed engineering institutions. Of them, 2,208 had not paid the admission fee, while 95 candidates paid the fee but failed to download the admission order. A few had made partial payments. As a result, the KEA penalised 10 individuals found guilty of seat blocking and submitted a detailed report to the state government.

Unusual CET reappearances raise questions

While it's not unusual for students who are enrolled in nursing or lower-tier engineering colleges to retake CET in hopes of better options, this year's reappearance by medical students is particularly puzzling. KEA Executive Director H Prasanna confirmed that their internal software system flagged the repeat participation of students already enrolled in other courses, including MBBS. "We are closely monitoring this group," he said, adding that it is extremely rare for candidates to switch courses after already securing medical seats.

Safeguarding deserving students' opportunities

The KEA is now taking proactive measures to track and scrutinise such candidates to prevent misuse of the seat allotment process, which can unfairly deprive deserving students of legitimate opportunities.

This development has once again spotlighted the need for tighter regulations and technological interventions to stop seat blocking and ensure a fair admission process in Karnataka's professional education system.

Over 12,650 pourakarmikas granted permanent employment

The Karnataka government on Thursday granted permanent employment to over 12,650 pourakarmikas (civic workers) of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on the occasion of Labour Day.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah distributed appointment letters to 12,692 eligible civic workers selected through a special direct recruitment process.

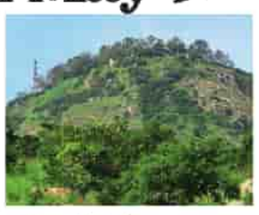
The Chief Minister said that while civic workers have now been made permanent, around 9,000 vehicle drivers, helpers, and operators will also be regularised in the coming days.

"Their salaries were increased from Rs 7,000 to Rs 17,000, and a system was introduced to ensure direct bank transfers, sparing them the exploitation of middlemen," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that the government has kept its promise of uplifting the lives of pourakarmikas by granting them permanent employment.

"There are four pillars of a stable society—the farmer, the labourer, the soldier, and the teacher. Our government sees pourakarmikas as ambassadors of cleanliness and children of god. You are the doctors of cleanliness in Bengaluru. Your contribution has helped the city earn global recognition," he said. **— PTI**

Access to Nandi Hills restricted till May 9



Authorities have extended the weekday entry restrictions at Nandi Hills until May 9, 2025. The restriction was originally in place until April 25 due to ongoing road renovation work on the 7.7 km stretch leading to the hilltop. The Chikkaballapur District Administration had allowed tourist entry only on weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) during this period, while barring access from Monday to Friday.

An official said that out of the total stretch, 4.1 km of road work has been completed. The remaining 3.6 km still requires asphalting, which is expected to take around 10 more days. "Based on requests from the Assistant Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department and the Assistant Director of the Tourism Department, the District Commissioner PN Ravindra has approved the extension of the weekday entry ban," the official said. Officials noted that the hill road is narrow with dangerous curves, making it necessary to suspend traffic while the work is in progress to ensure safety. **— BMB**

State considers raising liquor costs after recent hike

Following recent hikes in diesel, electricity, and milk prices, the Karnataka government is now preparing to increase liquor prices, including beer. A draft notification from the Excise Department proposes a 10% hike across all beer categories, which could raise prices by Rs 10 to Rs 20 per bottle, depending on the brand. The government also plans to increase the price of other liquors like brandy, whisky, rum, and gin by Rs 10 to Rs 15 per quarter. However, premium liquor brands and certain products like wine and Feni will remain exempt from the hike.

The Excise Department has invited public objections over the next seven days. The move is part of the government's target to generate Rs 40,000 crore in revenue through liquor sales. Currently, the Additional Excise Duty (AED) on beer stands at 195% of the production cost, which is now proposed to rise to 205%. This will mark the third hike in beer taxes in the past two years. In July 2023, the AED was raised from 175% to 185%, followed by another revision in January 2025 to 195%.

The latest proposal also introduces a graded tax system based on alcohol content, setting AED at Rs 12 per bulk litre for beer with up to 5% alcohol, and Rs 20 per bulk litre for beer with 5–8% alcohol. Officials say medium-range and local beer brands may see a Rs 5 hike, while high-alcohol content brands could face steeper increases. **— BMB**

Jewellery worth ₹3,000 crore sold this Akshaya Tritiya

Despite soaring gold prices, Karnataka witnessed record-breaking jewellery purchases on Akshaya Tritiya, with sales exceeding Rs 3,000 crore. By 9 pm on Wednesday, jewellers had sold approximately 2,380 kg of gold and 4,560 kg of silver across the state, according to the Karnataka Jewellers' Federation. Compared to last year, gold sales saw a 30% increase, while silver surged by 50%. Bengaluru alone accounted for 30 to 40% of the total business, followed by Hubballi, and Mangaluru. Last year, gold sales on the occasion were valued at Rs 2,050 crore.

On Akshaya Tritiya, 24-carat gold was priced at Rs 9,650 per gram, while 22-carat gold stood at Rs 9,100 per gram. Silver was sold at Rs 99,100 per kilogram. Jewellers reported that many customers viewed the purchases as a future investment, anticipating further price hikes. Karnataka Jewellers' Federation General Secretary Dr B Ramachari noted that gold coins featuring religious icons such as Basavanna, Goddess Lakshmi, Lord Rama, and Adi Shankaracharya were in high demand. **— BMB**

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Bengaluru's skyscrapers to double as solar power plants

With training and innovation, city eyes a future where architecture meets sustainability

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Bengaluru might soon see skyscrapers wrapped in solar panels, generating electricity to meet the buildings' demands. As the city continues to expand, integrating solar panels into building facades is a necessity, experts say.

Karnataka Renewable Energy and Development Ltd (KREDL) appears to be in sync.

The agency, along with GIZ, organisations such as Karnataka Renewable Energy Systems Manufacturers Association, and industry experts, is looking at building capacity of stakeholders to transform urban structures into power generators through building-integrated photovoltaics. KREDLE is holding a three-day training program to help stakeholders with the nitty-gritty of embedding solar panels into building elements such as facades, skylights, and windows, apart from rooftops.

The training on building-integrated photovoltaics will educate on smart integration to replace conventional building materials with solar panels, which will reduce electricity bills, especially for air-conditioned buildings.

Experts say the technology suits high-rise buildings and is ideal for urban spaces, as no extra land is required. Panels can be integrated into façades, railings, and shading devices and can be tailored to match modern high-rise structures and heritage buildings. It also aligns with BIS norms.

Building-integrated photovoltaics technology is also moving towards carbon neutrality. Experts say this approach not only supports energy equity and urban sustainability but also transforms our cities into smarter, greener spaces

"As Bengaluru grows vertically, integrating solar into building facades is no longer optional—it's strategic. This technology brings dual benefits - clean energy generation and enhanced thermal performance. More importantly, it redefines how we view architecture just as shelter, but as a power-generating asset. With declining solar costs, advancing technologies, and growing policy momentum, we are on the cusp of a BIPV revolution," said Ramesh Shivanna, solar expert.

By enabling electricity generation at the point of consumption, the technology significantly reduces a building's carbon footprint. However, safety standards, especially for inhabited buildings, play an important role, opine experts. Fire resistance, impact durability, and electrical insulation are important aspects to consider.

> **"With declining solar costs, advancing technologies, and growing policy momentum, we are on the cusp of a BIPV revolution**
>
> – Ramesh Shivanna, Solar Expert

"To ensure security aspects, it is important to have certified BIPV systems. India, with its ambitious target of 280 GW of solar capacity by 2030, is now exploring the vast potential of BIPV, especially in high-density urban zones. Although in the nascent stage, the technology is gaining traction through smart city initiatives, green building certifications, and CSR-led innovation hubs. However, challenges remain, including high upfront costs, lack of standardised codes, limited awareness, and the need for skilled professionals in design and execution," added Shivanna.

The training program is organised by GIZ, SCGJ, and EY officials, with regional support from KRESMA, KREDL, and PEERRI.

Experts say the technology suits high-rise buildings and urban areas

FKCCI, bar owners oppose liquor price, vehicle fee hikes

Industry leaders say price hikes in liquor and vehicle registration add to rising operational costs, threatening business sustainability and jobs

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) has expressed deep concern over the state government's recent announcements to increase liquor prices and registration fees for commercial vehicles, according to media reports. The FKCCI stated that these hikes add to a growing list of cost escalations, including higher power tariffs, water charges, property taxes, garbage collection fees, and other transport-related expenses.

Industry braces for the impact of proposed liquor price hikes in Karnataka

FKCCI President MG Balakrishna stated that the cumulative effect of these successive hikes is placing an unsustainable financial burden on businesses across Karnataka. "Small and medium enterprises, in particular, are struggling to absorb these rising costs, which threaten their viability and competitiveness," Balakrishna said.

He noted that the proposed hike in liquor prices is likely to adversely affect the hospitality and tourism sectors, leading to reduced consumer spending and potential job losses. "Similarly, the increase in registration fees for commercial vehicles will raise logistics and transportation costs, impacting supply chains and driving up the overall cost of goods. While we understand the government's need to augment revenue, it is imperative to consider the timing and cumulative impact of these measures. We urge the government to engage in dialogue with industry stakeholders to develop balanced solutions that promote economic growth without overburdening businesses," he said.

He added that FKCCI remains committed to working with the government to ensure Karnataka continues to be a preferred destination for industry, trade, and commerce.

Expressing concern over the proposed liquor price hike, State Bar Owners' Association Vice President Karunakar Hegde said the move would negatively impact bars and restaurants across the state. "I strongly oppose the proposal to hike liquor prices," he said. **— BMB**

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Pavement peril

Doddakammanahalli

The pavement near a hall at the Doddakammanahalli Main Road junction is blocked by debris, potholes, a lamppost, and encroachments. Vehicles occupy all available space, making it difficult for pedestrians—especially seniors and children—to cross or turn safely.

Footpath neglect

Kothnur

The footpath near Neighborhood Hospital on Kothnur Road, JP Nagar 7th Phase, is heavily encroached upon and in a state of disrepair.

Road disruption

Dr Rajkumar Road

Dr Rajkumar Main Road, between a theatre and a showroom, has been dug up for almost a month, disrupting local businesses and causing a decline in customer footfall.

Jeeva suicide case: HC grants bail to DySP

Probe in case is over and charge sheet prepared, petitioner not likely to flee from justice: High Court

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The High Court has granted bail to DySP Kanaka Lakshmi BM, who stands accused of abetting advocate Jeeva S's suicide. Justice S Vishwajith Shetty approved the petition by the police officer, who faces charges under section 7(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 108 of BNS, 2023.

"SPP has fairly brought to the notice of this Court that investigation of the case is already completed and a draft charge sheet is prepared and submitted before this Court in compliance with the order passed in Crl.P.No.12695/2024. He also has submitted that the State Government has also granted sanction as provided under Section 218 of BNSS, 2023, to prosecute the petitioner and therefore, charge sheet will be filed before the jurisdictional Court forthwith. The maximum punishment for the alleged offence is imprisonment for a period of ten years. Since the petitioner is a Government Servant there cannot be any apprehension that she is likely to flee away from justice," the court observed.

The case

Jeeva S was accused in a funds misappropriation case concerning Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation. The petitioner, who investigated the case, allegedly harassed and ill-treated the deceased during interrogation.

Cop accused of harassing and ill-treating Jeeva, who was accused in a funds misappropriation case concerning Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation, during interrogation

On November 22, 2024, after writing a 13-page suicide note alleging torture by the investigating officer, the advocate took her life. The petitioner contended that available evidence did not establish a prima facie case for the offence under Section 108 (Abetment of suicide) BNS.

The defence argued that the suicide note contained no allegations of bribe demands, suggesting this was a later addition to the complaint. They emphasised that the petitioner, a married woman, serves as Deputy Superintendent of Police at CID Bengaluru, and with investigations complete, her custody was unnecessary.

The prosecution and the deceased lawyer's sister opposed bail, arguing that evidence showed harassment during interrogation.

They emphasised that the detailed suicide note implicated the petitioner, and her position as a police officer raised concerns about potential evidence tampering.

Court observations

The court noted that the deceased lawyer was accused in the Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation case, involving over Rs.10 crores transferred to her account.

It acknowledged that the deceased had previously approached the high court regarding alleged torture by the petitioner, resulting in court-ordered video recording of interrogations. The court stated, "The deceased had appeared for interrogation armed with an order from this Court and if there was any excuse during the course of interrogation, the same could have been always brought before this Court." Examining the recorded conversations between the accused and deceased, the court found no evidence of instigation or abetment. While allegations existed about selective video recording during alleged torture, the court deemed these speculative without concrete evidence. The court noted that the draft charge sheet dropped Prevention of Corruption Act charges, retaining only Section 108 of BNS, 2023.

Considering the psychological autopsy report indicating the deceased's concern about her sister's involvement in the case, and with investigations complete, the court granted bail.

The accused was ordered to furnish a personal bond of Rs.1,00,000 with two sureties of equal amount.

SC orders CBI probe into builder–bank nexus

Thousands of incomplete projects leave Karnataka buyers in distress

» PG 6

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SC orders CBI probe into builder-bank nexus

Thousands of incomplete projects leave Karnataka buyers in distress

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proceedings.

(vii) Whether the home-buyers have received any relief or remedial order from the statutory authorities like Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA). If so, the details of such orders be also furnished."

5. On receipt of that information, this Court, on 04.03.2025, prima facie found that there was some unholy nexus between the banks/Housing Financial Corporations on one hand and the builder-cum-developers on the other. It was in this context that the Central Bureau of Investigation was asked to be represented on the next date of hearing.

6. On 18.03.2025, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, along with some officers of the CBI, was present in Court. They were requested to suggest the manner in which the CBI would proceed with the inquiry or investigation into the issues that were briefly

33

Banks bypass title checks as 2,678 housing projects remain incomplete

Karnataka home buyers applaud the Supreme Court's directive for a CBI probe into the alleged nexus between financial institutions and builders, citing widespread incomplete projects and banks' negligence

Home buyers in Karnataka have welcomed the Supreme Court's direction to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into alleged nexus between financial institutions and builders. The Supreme Court while hearing special leave petitions filed by home buyers has said that, on receipt of that information on March 4, 2025, it prima facie found that there was some unholy nexus between the banks/housing financial corporations on one hand and the builder-cum-developers on the other hand.

"It was in this context that the Central Bureau of Investigation was asked to be represented on the next date of hearing," the Supreme Court's order noted.

The direction has brought a sense of relief to home buyers across Karnataka, who have long alleged collusion between financial institutions and developers. The Karnataka Home Buyers Forum (KHBF), which had earlier called for a CBI probe into what it terms as widespread real estate fraud, hailed the Supreme Court's move.

Currently, 2,678 housing projects remain incomplete across the state, according to data from the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA). The scale of these delays was highlighted in Bangalore Mirror's April 2, 2025, report titled Really a Nightmare: Delays, Defaults, and Distress, which detailed the plight of affected home buyers.

In addition to welcoming the CBI probe, the KHBF has appealed to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to investigate complaints against nationalised and private sector banks that allegedly failed to conduct proper checks before sanctioning home loans. The forum has accused some banks of ignoring crucial verifications like project title deeds, khata, and mutation records.

"This is a good direction. I welcome it," said Vani Kishore, a home buyer. She urged authorities to ensure that the CBI investigation covers all relevant complaints from home buyers in Karnataka.

KHBF Sanchalak Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar reiterated the forum's support for the probe and said that banks have repeatedly neglected their responsibilities. "There are many builders in Karnataka who have cheated home buyers. Banks give home loans to projects without verifying titles or khata, and without checking mutation of land records. This dereliction of duty seriously affects the rights of buyers. We hope the CBI ensures justice," he said.

Home buyer Ameya Usagaonkar pointed out how the banks' laxity in verifying project compliance contributes to larger systemic issues. "As per RERA, builders must register the agreement for sale before accepting any advance payment. This registration creates a lien on the project land and reflects the buyer's interest in public land records. But no bank in Bengaluru verifies these documents," he said.

Usagaonkar criticised banks for ignoring safeguards that would otherwise protect the buyer. "Instead of supporting the buyer who brings long-term value to the bank through EMIs, banks side with the builder. That's where the scam starts," he said.

He also highlighted what he described as a "re-mortgage scam," wherein some private banks allegedly provide loans on project lands already tied to registered sale deeds without informing buyers. "Buyers are kept in the dark due to the absence of a valid lien. In another issue, some banks accept the Deed of Declaration (DoD) as proof of an apartment owners' association registration, even though the RBI does not list it as a recognised document," he added.

Abduction cases not getting seriousness they deserve, say pet parents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I want the police to speed up the investigation. I also know of a resident of JP Nagar who has also lost his pet dog. The authorities must ensure safety for pet dogs," said Madhura.

Expressing concern over missing pet dogs, Dr Sumedha Swamy said that people do not realise that having a pet is not just a joy or a status, but in reality it mirrors the profound responsibility and emotional bonding equivalent to raising a child. "If a human child was abducted, the police would have swung into action and nabbed the perpetrators, who would have been severely punished. We need to bring in strict laws to safeguard our fur babies. The police need to buckle up and need to understand the seriousness the matter deserves," said Dr Swamy.

"A complaint was registered only after we insisted we will bring our lawyer to the police station if the police would not do it as requested

Nivedita Ramakrishnan, a pet parent whose Indie dog went missing for more than 90 days because of a careless dog boarding centre, said she can ascertain by first hand experience of how high her expectations were in getting support from the police and how those were quashed. "A complaint was registered only after we insisted we will bring our lawyer to the police station if the police would not do it as requested. We used the complaint to request CCTV footage from various educational institutions and offices, but the police did not help get it by accompanying us like we thought they would," Ramakrishnan said.

She said that police had asked her not to approach them as they had enough on their hands with cases related to humans, and that they do not want to waste time on missing dogs.

Cancer survivor student scores 92 per cent in ICSE boards

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"I want to study law and then attempt the UPSC exams. I aspire to become an IPS officer. I have hence decided to study commerce at PUC

– Chirantan Honnapura

Chirantan Honnapura, a student of Aryan Presidency School, Nagarbhavi, who fought against Osteosarcoma (a bone cancer) for over a year, has now passed the Class 10 ICSE board examination with distinction, scoring 92 per cent marks.

He was diagnosed with high-grade Osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer common among teenagers and young adults while studying in Class 9. Forced to leave school mid-year for treatment, Chirantan underwent surgery to remove the cancerous bone in his right forearm. Despite these setbacks, he appeared for his Class 9 exams with the help of a substitute writer and scored an impressive 82%.

Class 10 lessons began soon after the results, but Chirantan was hospitalised again for chemotherapy and couldn't attend classes for over three months. Still, he chose not to take any extra tuition and instead focused on classroom learning.

With consistent support from his teachers and school, he gradually caught up with his peers. He relied on social media channels for live subject lessons and followed study tips shared online.

Chirantan's determination and mature outlook helped him navigate through one of life's toughest challenges at a young age. His resilience has inspired many of his peers.

"I want to study law and then attempt the UPSC exams. I aspire to become an IPS officer. I have hence decided to study commerce at PUC," he says.

CM pushes centre to set date for caste census

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, while welcoming the Union government's decision to conduct a caste census along with the population census, on Thursday, urged the Centre to fix a date for the caste census immediately.

"To ensure social justice for the people of this country, the caste census must also include socio-educational and economic data collection. There must be clarity from the Centre on when exactly the caste and population census will be conducted," Siddaramaiah said, reiterating that socio-economic surveys must go hand-in-hand with the caste census.

He also called for revisiting the existing 50 per cent ceiling on reservations, stating that quotas should be determined based on the population of respective communities. He stressed that this approach would help ensure equitable distribution of resources and representation.

Citing Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi's consistent demand for a caste census coupled with a socio-economic survey, Siddaramaiah said the party strongly believes that resource allocation should reflect the demographic realities of various communities.

"The Constitution mandates reservations for socially and educationally backward groups. If caste data is backed by socio-economic and educational indicators, it becomes easier to implement fair reservations and integrate disadvantaged groups into the mainstream," he explained.

Highlighting Karnataka's own efforts, he recalled that a socio-educational survey was conducted in 2015 under the Permanent Backward Classes Commission. The state had allocated 192 crore for the exercise and deployed 1.33 lakh personnel for data collection.

He concluded by saying a final call on the caste census report will be taken after hearing all ministers' opinions. **–IANS**

Break traffic rules, airport AI won't blink

AI-enabled cameras at Kempegowda Airport now monitor six traffic violations, including helmetless riding and signal jumping; with 24/7 surveillance and automated challans, officials aim to curb erratic driving

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com

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Travellers arriving at the Kempegowda International Airport may now want to double-check their seatbelts and helmets, not just for safety, but also to avoid being caught on camera. To streamline traffic discipline, the entire airport campus has been brought under 24/7 CCTV surveillance, with AI-enabled enforcement cameras installed at all four traffic signals within the premises, updating to recognise six types of violations.

MN Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police, states that "For everyone commuting through Kempegowda International Airport, be aware that the entire airport campus is now under round-the-clock CCTV surveillance. While surveillance cameras were already in place earlier, they were limited to detecting only overspeeding. With the latest upgrade, the system can now identify six additional traffic violations."

These four smart cameras are now designed to automatically detect a wide range of traffic violations, including riding without a helmet, driving without a seatbelt, jumping red signals, and even triple riding on two-wheelers. Once a violation is recorded, the system flags it for enforcement, potentially issuing automated challans to offenders.

The move comes in the wake of several complaints about erratic driving and poor road behaviour within the campus. As per police data, a total of 3,349 traffic violations have been recorded in 2025, averaging around 37 violations per day along the Devanahalli Airport Road alone.

According to the Violation Challan Analytics dashboard summarises traffic violation challans issued by Bengaluru Traffic Police, the majority of traffic violations near the Devanahalli Airport Road in 2025 have been attributed to overspeeding, which accounts for a staggering 55% of the total cases. Drunk driving follows at 8%, while wrong parking contributes to 6% of the violations. Triple riding has been reported in 5% of the instances, and riding without a helmet stands at 4%. Additionally, 3% of the offenders were found driving without a valid license, and another 3% involved pillion riders without helmets. Carrying excessive passengers and entering no-entry zones each made up 2% of the cases, while 1% involved vehicles with defective registration number plates.

"With the influx of passengers, staff, taxis, and service vehicles, traffic inside the airport campus has grown complex. The introduction of AI cameras will ensure rule violations are caught in real-time and acted upon swiftly. We're not just looking at enforcement, but at behavioural change," a senior traffic official stated.

Earlier in 2024, 8,073 violations were detected, which means per day, 22 violations were noticed. With an upgrade of AI cameras, the system can also help law enforcement agencies spot habitual offenders by cross-referencing vehicle registration data. However, traffic police officials are urging commuters to prioritise safety and avoid penalties by strictly following traffic rules. Two-wheeler riders are advised to always wear helmets and avoid triple riding, while all motorists should stop before the white line at signals, wear seatbelts while driving, and never jump red lights. Violators of these rules will face strict penalties as the Bengaluru City Police intensifies enforcement to ensure safer roads. Citizens are encouraged to drive responsibly, follow regulations, and contribute to making every journey safe and disciplined.

AI-enabled cameras now auto-detect violations like helmet-less riding, no seatbelts, red-light jumping, and triple riding

> **"Introduction of AI cameras will ensure violations are caught in real-time & acted upon swiftly. We are not just looking at enforcement but at behavioural change**
>
> – Senior traffic official

Biker dies in road collision

A 32-year-old biker lost his life, and another was injured in a road accident that took place near MS Ramaiah Hospital in Mathikere on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as David, a native of Tamil Nadu who worked at a laundry in Muthyala Nagar. The incident occurred while he was returning to his paying guest accommodation after work.

According to police, David's bike collided with another two-wheeler near the hospital gate, leaving both riders injured. They were immediately rushed to the hospital, where David later succumbed to his injuries.

Yeshwanthpur traffic police have booked a case of death due to negligence and rash and negligent driving. Officials said they are awaiting the recovery of the second rider to record his statement and proceed with the investigation.

Drunken crash leaves 7 injured

A 28-year-old truck driver near the General Post Office (GPO) in central Bengaluru caused a crash that left seven people injured, including three women who sustained serious injuries on Wednesday evening.

The incident occurred around 4 pm when Manoj, a post office truck driver, allegedly drove out of the GPO premises while intoxicated. Manoj was speeding towards Raj Bhavan when he lost control of the vehicle and rammed into three auto rickshaws and a car.

Fameeda and her daughter Taj, travelling in one of the autos, and Vimala Devi, a passenger in another rickshaw, suffered serious injuries and are currently undergoing treatment. Doctors have confirmed that all three are out of danger. The auto and car drivers involved escaped with minor bruises and were treated at a nearby clinic.

BM Food & Night Life

Advertorial Promotional Feature

Mint-infused summer: Cool hacks for cooking

If you think that mint was meant only for garnishing, then you need to upgrade your kitchen knowledge. This summer, you can play around with it to create something more interesting, unique and delicious. Here are mint secrets to add an edge to your summer platter.

1. Chop a few fresh mint leaves and add to your salad with some freshly grated ginger and lemon zest. You may choose to add cubes of watermelon, too. The flavour of this combo is beautiful and can impart great summer flair to any boring salad.

2. Chop mint leaves and add them to your ice cube tray. Drop these ice cubes into your guests' drinks or blend them for a minty smoothie.

3. Instead of using vinegar for sweet and salty flavour in gravy, use dry mint leaves. Crush them and mix them in half-cooked gravy to add flavour.

4. Fresh mint leaves boiled with sugar to make mint syrup can be used to sweeten drinks. After boiling, the mint flavour blends well with sugar and can give a refreshing taste to any drink.

5. Stir yoghurt, mint, garlic, lemon juice and cumin in a small bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste. This yoghurt mint sauce can be refrigerated and used for a couple of days.

Beware of the lethal leak

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cylinders and connections should be made mandatory and conducted by certified professionals. Government bodies and LPG providers must also organise awareness programs that educate the public about safe usage, identifying leaks, and responding during emergencies, they said.

Furthermore, mock drills and training sessions must be carried out at regular intervals in residential colonies, schools, colleges, workplaces, and public areas. These help in familiarising people with emergency protocols and boost their confidence to handle real-life situations. Strict implementation of safety regulations, along with routine monitoring by fire and safety departments, will ensure a culture

of accountability and preparedness, said an expert.

A senior official from the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services Department told BM that nearly 15,000 mock drills were conducted across the state in 2024.

"We've assigned the inspectors concerned to conduct regular mock drills and awareness programmes across city, rural, and urban areas. These sessions cover crucial topics such as what to do during a gas leak, how to respond during a fire, how ignition can occur, and safety measures to follow. Awareness lectures are routinely conducted in schools, colleges, offices, and public spaces," the official stated.

Rural areas vulnerable

According to official sources, gas leak incidents continue to be more frequent in rural areas compared to urban zones. Experts attribute this trend to a combination of poor awareness, lack of timely maintenance, and limited access to safety resources.

In many rural households, rubber tubes, regulators, and stoves are used well beyond their recommended life span, without replacements or inspections. "We've seen that people often don't replace old equipment due to cost concerns or simply lack of knowledge," said a senior official from the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services. Additionally, most rural homes lack proper ventilation and are built with flammable materials, making them more vulnerable to fire spread in case of a leak.

Precautions to prevent LPG-related accidents

- Use only authorised dealers for LPG installation and servicing
- Regularly check the hose (rubber or plastic pipe) and regulator
- Replace equipment as per safety norms (typically every 5 years)
- Install a gas leak detector in the kitchen
- Turn off the regulator when not in use, especially at night or when leaving home
- Keep the kitchen well-ventilated
- Never use matches, lighters, or switches if you suspect a leak
- Store cylinders upright in a cool, well-ventilated area, away from heat or sunlight
- Don't tamper with the valve, cylinder, or regulator
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy and teach all family members basic safety steps
- Join or organise mock drills in your community for better preparedness

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CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Bhagya** wife of Paramesh P.N residing at No 29 Byraveshwara nilaya 2nd cross Nehru extension Malur Kolar 563130. Karnataka India. I have changed my name from Bhagya Paramesha (Old name) to **Bhagya T (New name)** as per Notary. Same as been sworn before Maaruth Vijay, Advocate & Notary, Malur on 02-04-2025

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shashikala Hirematha D/o Shivayogi Hiremath, R/at Jashwanth Nilaya, 1st Main, 6th Cross, Shakthinagara, Turuvekere, Tumakuru district have changed my name to **Shashikala S Hiremath** & spellings of **"Hirematha"** & **"Hiremath"** are considered to be same as per vide affidavit dt: 24.4.2025 before Notary Shilpa V (Notary No: LCL/239/2024)

I, Ravi residing at No. 156, BSA Road, 3rd Cross, AK Colony, Frazer Town, Bangalore-05 hereby state that in my Son R. Nakul's school records our names existing as 1. RAVI. R to be rectified as R. RAVI, 2.MEENA. R to be rectified as R. MEENA 3. NAKUL. R to be rectified as R.NAKUL vide affidavit dtd 29-04-25 before notary D. Guna Shekar, Blore

I, Manju Jain Kailash Chand W/o Kailash Chand R/o #322, 2nd Cross ,6th Main Road Vijaynagar Bangalore 560040 have changed my name to Manju Jain.

I Gursharan Cerullo D/o Jeevan Singh Pardesi, R/o 166 D, Cantonment Railway Quarters, Thimmiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bangalore-560052 and presently residing at 202-3711 Whitelaw Lane NW, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6W2C3 do hereby change my name from Gursharan Swaroop to Gursharan Cerullo with immediate effect.

I Harsha Kolala Padmanabhachari S/O, Padmanabhachar R/o No 34, 3rd Main, 6th Cross, Jai Maruthi Nagar, Nandini Layout Bangalore - 560096. Karnataka have changed my name to Harsha Kolala Padmanabhachar.

I, VIJAYKUMAR PATTAR S/O NARAYAN, R/O FLAT NO 502,ADIGAS VISHWOTHAMA APT,JP NAGAR 8TH PHASE NEAR JAMBU SAVARI DINNE Bengaluru Karnataka 560076 have changed my name to VIJAYKUMAR NARAYAN PATTAR for all future purposes.

I, Lakshminarayana Bangalore Kempeeraiah, No 142,Lakshmi Nivasa, 7th Cross, Rashi Residency, Kadabagere, Bengaluru Rural 562130 have changed my minor son's name from Manish to Manish Bangalore Lakshminarayana.

I, Faiza Kouser W/o Anees Ahmed R/o No.402 , Second Floor, 3rd Cross, Lakshmi Layout,Arekere,Po Bannerg - hatta Road , Bengaluru 560076, have changed my name to Faiza Kausar for all purposes.

I Vidur Kunnenkeril Chandy S/O, Mohan Chandy R/o No 2a, Hayes Hall Apartment, No 1 Hayes Road, Richmond Town, Bangalore - 560025. Karnataka have changed my name to Vidur Chandy.

I Tasarun Nazreen Nissar W/O Muzamil Ahmed R/o 43,1st A cross, 1 st main, Manuvana, vijay nagar, Bangalore 560040 have changed my name to TASARUN NAZREEN for all purpose

I Jayashree Narayanappa W/O, R Narayanappa R/o "mahima Nilaya", Chikkabidirakallu Main Road, Nagasandra Post, Bangalore- 73 have changed my name to R Jayashree for all purposes

I ERSHAD PASHA S/o MOHAMMED SULAIMAN R/o No 47/1 A R Building BABA Lane Nizamuddin Mohalla Bangalore 560002 have changed my name to MOHAMMED IRSHAD for all Purposes

I Padmanabhachari S/O, Anjanachar R/o No 34, 3rd Main, 6th Cross, Jai Maruthi Nagar, Nandini Layout Bangalore - 560096. Karnataka have changed my name to Padmanabhachar.

I Rakesh Elukoti Chandru S/O, Chandrashekar Subramaniam R/o No 1271 2nd Floor 1st B Main 9th Block Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage Bengaluru - 560072 have changed my name to Rakesh Chandrashekar.

I Poongualali W/O, Prince Benjamin Santha Irudayaraja R/o No 229/292/1 Nani 4th D Cross Near Goverment Primary School Chikka Banaswadi Maruthisevanagar Bengaluru - 560033 have changed my name to Poongualali Chandar.

GET NOTICED

Bannerghatta animals enjoy icy treats

As the heat intensifies with each passing day, Bannerghatta National Park's animals also feel the sweltering summer. In a bid to safeguard their health and ensure a comfortable environment, changes have been made to their feeding routine. To help the animals stay cool, fruits and vegetables are being stored in refrigerators and given to them. Priority is given to summer-friendly fruits like watermelon. Additionally, some animals are being treated with frozen 'ice candies.' Water ponds have been installed within their enclosures for larger animals such as elephants, tigers, and lions, allowing them to cool off by immersing themselves in the water when the heat becomes unbearable. Nitesh, a tourist, said, "For the first time, visitors witnessed an animal enjoying an 'ice candy' treat. Observing the animals relishing their food has been a delightful experience for tourists."

Tree crushes autorickshaw driver amid downpour

A 45-year-old autorickshaw driver was killed on the spot on Wednesday evening after a massive tree came crashing down on his vehicle amid relentless rainfall in the city. The incident occurred around 7:30 pm near the MM Bar at the 43A bus stop on Kathriguppe Main Road.

The victim, identified as Mahesh, a resident of Ittamadu, was reportedly waiting by the roadside when the decades-old tree toppled over, smashing his auto and trapping him underneath. Locals rushed to the scene, but Mahesh had already succumbed to his injuries before emergency responders could arrive.

A senior police official stated that the victim's family is in the process of filing an Unnatural Death Report (UDR), pending further investigation.

The accident comes as Bengaluru continues to reel under heavy rains that began lashing the city again on Wednesday afternoon. Downpours swept through key areas such as Richmond Circle, Shanthinagar, Majestic, KR Market, and the Corporation Circle, throwing traffic into disarray. Long snarls were reported across arterial roads, with commuters stuck in gridlocks for hours.

Recalling the old incident, it indicates that this is not the first time. Earlier on March 22, a three-year-old identified as Raksha lost her life on the spot after a tree fell on the bike she was riding with her father during heavy rain and strong winds near East Garden in Devarajeevanahalli. According to officials, the tree was weakened due to the recent heavy rains, leading to its collapse on the moving bike.

No UPI at Lalbagh? visitors react

Visitors to Bengaluru's Lalbagh Botanical Garden are still required to pay cash for entry, prompting Dr A Velumani, founder of Thyrocare, to question the absence of digital payment options.

"Strange!! The IT capital of the world is India, IT capital of India is Bengaluru. But doesn't accept UPI payments for the entry fee. Demanded cash for digital receipt," Velumani posted, his words echoing the sentiments of many visitors.

Ironically, while printed receipts are issued at the counter, digital payments remain absent in this prime tourist attraction nestled in the heart of a city globally celebrated for its tech prowess. Citizens were quick to react, many sharing similar experiences at Lalbagh and other heritage sites in Bengaluru. And another user commented

as "In Bangalore, I stopped carrying cash as the majority of the places where UPI/ card is allowed."

Lalbagh, visited daily by thousands of locals and tourists, has long been a symbol of the city's green heart. But it appears the digital beat hasn't quite reached its gates. With Velumani's post now gaining traction, it remains to be seen whether authorities will finally greenlight UPI payments. BM contacted the Horticulture department, however, they remained unresponsive.

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IN 4DX AT
PVR-INOX CINEMAS (NEXUS Koramangala, 9:40 a.m., 2:55, 10:20 p.m. | BHARTIYA MALL, 10:00 a.m., 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 p.m. | PHOENIX MARKETCITY MALL Whitefield Road, 10:00 a.m., 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00 p.m. | VEGA CITY Bannerghatta, 12:50, 3:20, 8:00 p.m. | SUPERPLEX FORUM MALL Kanakapura Road, 10:20 a.m., 12:50, 5:20, 7:50 p.m. | ORION MALL Dr. Rajkumar Road, 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00 p.m. | GLOBAL MALL Mysore Road, 10:00 a.m., 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 p.m.) |
ICE 3D SCREEN
PVR-INOX SUPERPLEX FORUM MALL Kanakapura Road, 11:00 a.m., 1:40, 7:20, 10:00 p.m.
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PVR-INOX CINEMAS MEGAPLEX MALL OF ASIA 9:10, 11:50 a.m., 2:30, 5:10, 7:50 p.m.
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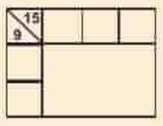
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



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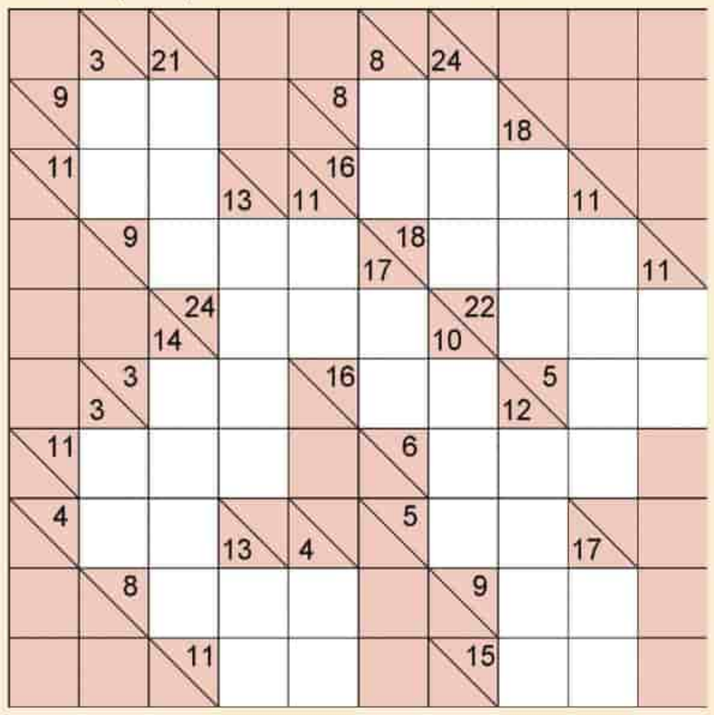

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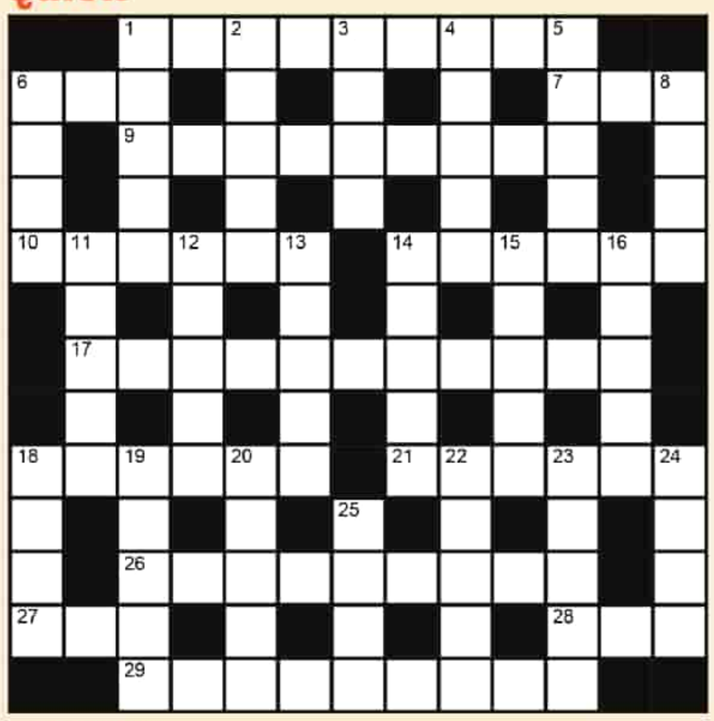


ACROSS

1 Newspapers, radio or television as means of communication (4,5)
6 Enemy (3)
7 Allow or rent (3)
9 Area famous for its invitation card shops (9)
10 Senior members of professions (6)
14 Loves or reveres greatly (6)
17 Absorbed, incorporated or merged (11)
18 Think highly of (6)
21 Cold dish of vegetables (6)
26 Like a bat or an owl (9)
27 U-turn from NNW (3)
28 Kind of newt (3)
29 Asphyxiated, strangled or suffocated (9)

DOWN

1 Dirty or filthy (5)
2 Drawing room (5)
3 Protective ditch (4)
4 Fooled or swindled (5)
5 Amend (5)
6 Vendetta (4)
8 Drags behind (4)
11 Come _ ___: mature or grow up (2,3)
12 Come after (5)
13 French river scene of heavy fighting in World War I (5)
14 Book of maps (5)
15 In base 8 (5)
16 Discontinued (5)
18 Tears off (4)
19 Weathercocks (5)
20 Right hand page of an open book (5)
22 Old fashioned name–"re-ban" anagram? (5)
23 Was unwell or was sick (5)
24 Strain (4)
25 Of like kind (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS H

JMN PRA CMB OBNX PBDN JMRA MN YX LRYO SBD CYFF XBBA ZN LRYO SBD PBDN JMRA MN OBNX.

Linemaro

Baby you are like a student and I am like a math book, you solve all my problems

Mindchow

It is the privilege of friendship to talk nonsense, and have it respected

Joke of the day

Judge: A law student who marks his own papers

Loop

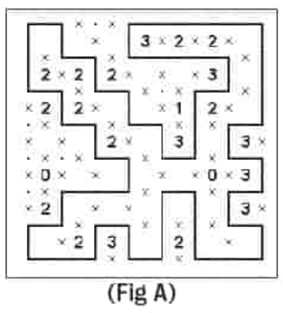
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

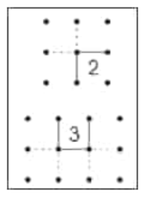
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

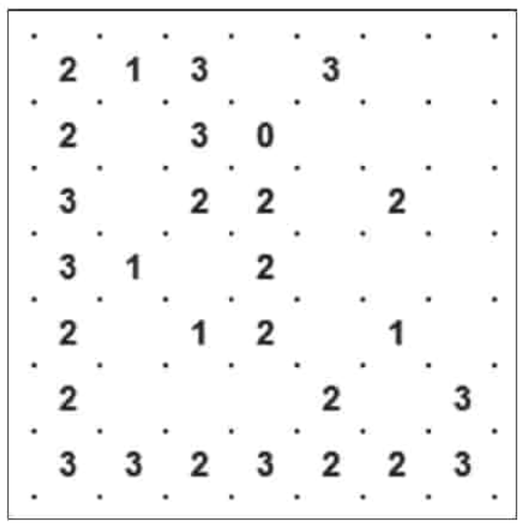
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., If you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



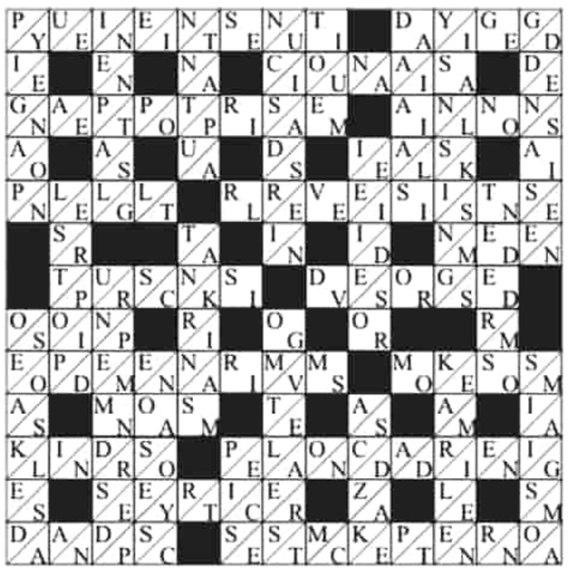
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



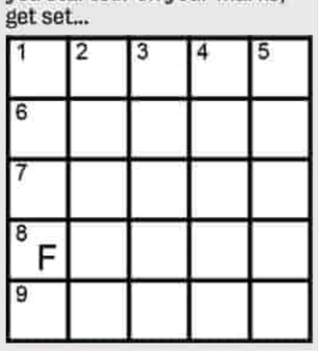
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Reams; 6 Con NE; 7 UTI Ad; 8 Ref an; 9 Gun id

DOWN

1 Fauns; 2 Munro; 3 Den Ed; 4 In CIA; 5 Great

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; **13** Good; **15** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			6		9			
		1	4		7	2		
8		9				7		4
6	3			1			7	9
	1						2	
2	7			4			8	6
5		2				6		3
		3	1		8	9		
			5		2			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 16

1 3 5 9

Medium

= 4

2 7 8 9

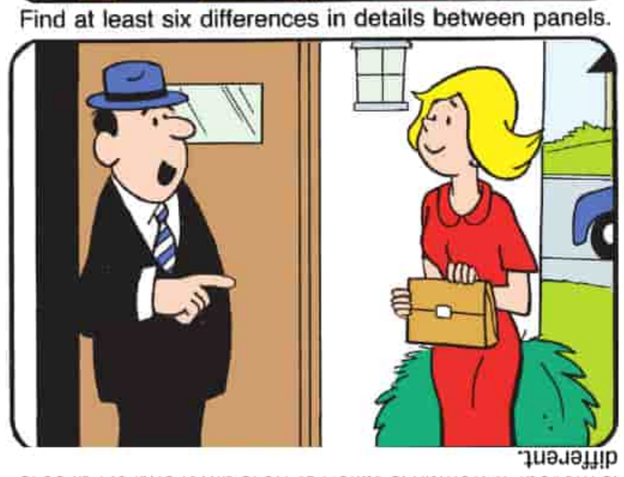
Hard

= 1

2 3 6 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



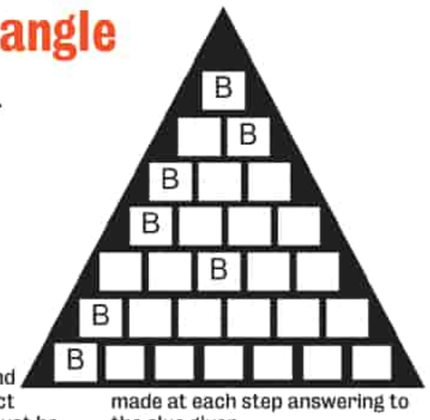
Differences: 1. Collar is different. 2. Skirt is longer. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Woman is taller. 5. Tie is different. 6. Purse is different.

Riddler

There are two groups of three-letter words used in the sentences below. The first missing words of each sentence are anagrams of each other, and the second missing words are also anagrams of each other. Can you find them ? 1. It is only ____ that we use a trap to catch a ____, instead of having a cat in the house! 2. To staunch the bleeding from a wound suffered by an animal, people used to ____ some hot ____ onto the wound at one time. 3. To ____ into the mysteries held within the human psyche and enjoy these mysteries to the fullest, is the objective of any ____.

Alpha triangle

1 Type of vitamin
2 Obstetrics, abbr.
3 Physique briefly
4 Daring
5 Like oak leaves
6 Dashed away
7 Swelled up



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

And now, a word from the National Council on Pickled Tacos:
TICKLES
©2025 creators.com 1/24
www.creators.com
This has been a word from the National Council on Pickled Tacos.

Hart of the city

THESE SHARKS ARE SO SMALL!
THEY CAN BE EVEN SMALLER! THE DWARF LANTERN SHARK CAN BE AS SMALL AS 8 INCHES.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
Google
CAN YOU HAVE A SHARK AS A PET
AMAZING.

Crankshaft

LET'S TRY ONE MORE HEADLINE, EMILY.
LET'S SAY THAT THE CITY CAN'T AFFORD TO COLLECT LEAVES... SO PEOPLE START DOING IT WITH THEIR OWN TRUCKS, AND THAT IDEA REALLY CATCHES ON...
1-24
'LEAF PICK UP WITH PICK-UPS PICKS UP.'
YOU'RE HIRED!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

HEY, MILLIE, WHAT, IS THE CAT GOING TO HIBERNATE THE WHOLE WINTER!?!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
NOT IF THEY DON'T PUT LOCKS ON THESE DOORS.
mutts.com
1-24

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today may bring some disappointment at work. You might struggle to find joy in the moment, and losses in property-related matters are possible. It's wise to postpone any investments for now. Pay close attention to your parents' health.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You are blessed by the Moon today, which gives you inner strength and clarity to make important decisions at work. Social gatherings may expand your professional network, bringing future benefits. Property-related disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may be focused on family matters, particularly your children's academics. Spending on home decor or creative items is likely. A short trip related to your kids' education may be on the cards. Avoid any form of addiction, as it could disrupt your domestic peace.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
The Moon's blessings bring courage and strategic thinking. You're likely to create solid plans and implement them effectively. Avoid overexcitement, as it could lead to mistakes. Be cautious and read documents thoroughly before signing. Rivals are under control.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Old health concerns may resurface today, causing anxiety and restlessness. You might lose focus and waste time on unproductive activities. Watch your expenses, especially on unnecessary items, as they may harm your financial health.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
The day may begin with distractions, but elder blessings could help you refocus. Important resources will become available, aiding in project completion. Income sources may increase, and past losses might turn into gains, improving your financial situation.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may receive a significant order from an overseas client, enhancing your business liquidity. Expect to meet influential individuals who can support your growth. Stronger relations with your boss could lead to promotions and a boost in your professional reputation.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
With your elders' blessings, you'll enjoy mental peace and patience. A spiritual journey may be on your mind, and you could contribute to a religious cause. There are also chances of planning or embarking on an overseas trip.

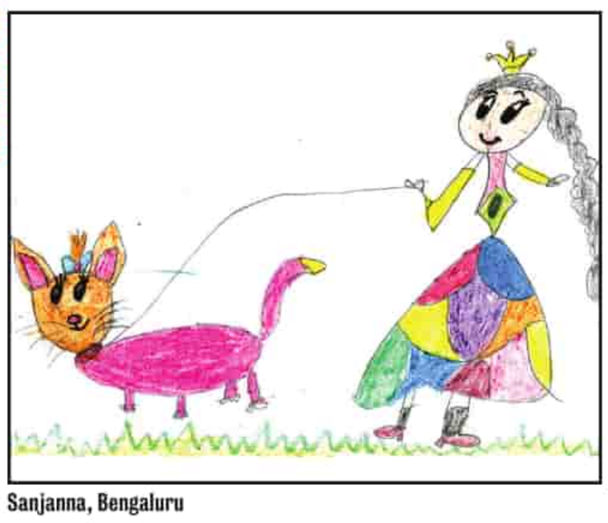
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may feel low and face some health challenges that impact your daily routine. A strange sense of fear might make you overly emotional. Avoid rash driving and risky adventures. Visiting a spiritual place could bring comfort. Interest in the occult may increase.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
The Moon's blessings bring happiness. You may feel inclined to help others and reflect on your personal life, possibly acknowledging past mistakes. This self-awareness can strengthen your bond with your spouse. Partnership disputes may also see resolution.

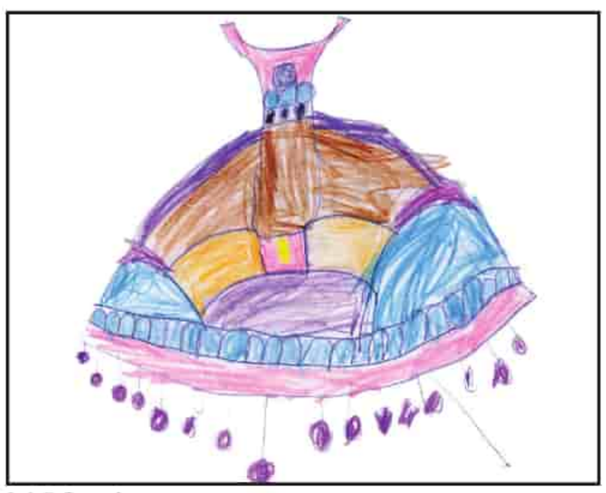
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You'll feel energetic and healthy today. Past health issues may fade. Victory in legal matters is likely, and rivals or opponents will be under control. Stuck funds may be recovered, improving your liquidity. You may be entrusted with a new responsibility at work.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
The day may be mixed. You'll be occupied with children's matters, and some couples may welcome a newborn or receive good news about pregnancy. Wisdom will help resolve business and social conflicts. Students might plan for overseas education, and working individuals could consider higher studies to advance their careers.

KIDZONE



Sanjanna, Bengaluru



Anjali, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER 1. It is only APT that we use a trap to catch a RAT, instead of having a cat in the house! 2. To staunch the bleeding from a wound suffered by an animal, people used to PAT some hot TAR onto the wound at one time. 3. To TAP into the mysteries held within the human psyche and enjoy these mysteries to the fullest, is the objective of any ART.

BULL'S EYE

S	M	E	A	R
A	U	D	I	T
N	O	N	C	E
F	R	E	N	A
U	N	D	I	G

lave, lean, loan, lone, love, navel, novel, NOVELLA, oval, vale, veal, vole

FAST FIVE

S					E		E	T	C	E	T	E	R	A
T	U	C	K	S		V	E	R	G	E		M		
S		A		N		D		N		E				
N	E	L	L		R	E	V	I	S	I	T	S		
O		A		S		E	L	K		I				
N	E	P	O	T	I	S	M		A	N	O	N		
I		E		A		I	O	N	I	A		E		
P	E	N	I	T	E	N	T		D	Y	E	D		

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

													D	E

MENSA PUZZLE

37. As you move down the diagram, double each number and subtract 5 to give the next number.

QUOTE UNCODE

The man who does more than he is paid for will soon be paid for more than he does.

SOLVE IN 1M $9+\frac{9}{3}=10$

SUDOKU

4	2	7	6	8	9	5	3	1
3	6	1	4	5	7	2	9	8
8	5	9	3	2	1	7	6	4
6	3	8	2	1	5	4	7	9
9	1	4	8	7	6	3	2	5
2	7	5	9	4	3	1	8	6
5	8	2	7	9	4	6	1	3
7	4	3	1	6	8	9	5	2
1	9	6	5	3	2	8	4	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE

B, OB, Bod, Bold, Lobed, Bolted, Bloated.

GO FIGURE

Easy
3 + 9 − 1 + 5 = 16
Medium
8 − 9 + 7 − 2 = 4
Hard
5 + 3 − 6 / 2 = 1

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Sequel alert
English filmmaker Guy Ritchie is once again joining forces with actor Jake Gyllenhaal as he is set to direct the sequel to 'Road House'

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Yuva's third movie

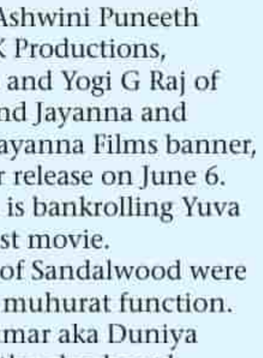
Yuva Rajkumar's third movie went on floors on Wednesday on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya. The muhurat function of the yet to be titled movie was held at Subrahmanya Temple in the city. Yuva's second movie Ekka, bankrolled by Ashwini Puneeth Rajumar of PRK Productions, Karthik Gowda and Yogi G Raj of KRG Studios, and Jayanna and Bhogendra of Jayanna Films banner, is scheduled for release on June 6. The same team is bankrolling Yuva Rajkumar's latest movie.

Who's who of Sandalwood were present for the muhurat function. While Vijay Kumar aka Duniya Vijay sounded the clap board, Puneeth Rajkumar's daughter Vanditha switched on the camera.

Sukka Soori is directing this film. Vijay Kumar's daughter Rithanya is paired opposite Yuva Rajkumar. The shooting of the movie is scheduled for the last week of May. Yuva Rajkumar took to X to inform his fans about his third movie. "May your wishes be upon our team as always! The title & First look will be revealed soon..." he wrote.

New producer

Rocking Star Yash's mother Pushpa Arun Kumar makes her debut as a producer in Sandalwood. Pushpa has launched PA Productions, and its first film's title and first look poster were unveiled on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya on Wednesday.



According to reliable sources, the shooting of the film, Kothalavadi, was wrapped up recently and the post-production works are in progress.

Shree Raj, who worked as an associate director for veteran directors KV Raju, Ravi Srivatsa and others, debuts as an independent director with Kothalavadi. It is said PA Productions aims to encourage and support new talent in Sandalwood.

Pruthvi Ambaar, known for Kannada movies Dia, Sugarless, Dooradarshana, and For Registration, is playing the lead role in the movie that is set at a village in Karnataka. The first look poster of the movie features Pruthvi Ambaar in a rugged look. Kavya Shaiva is paired opposite Pruthvi Ambaar.

Sing along

Actors who can sing too

Did you know that several of B-Town's stars are multi-talented. We bring a list of actors who can hold a tune. While some are trained in music, some are just naturals.

—Sonal Khandelwal, ETimes

Natural vocal flair

Farhan Akhtar didn't just impress with his acting debut in Rock On—he sang every song too. Trained in music from a young age, his raw yet emotive voice has earned him live gigs and fan love. He's one of Bollywood's most authentic actor-singers.

Unexpected music talent

Priyanka Chopra didn't limit herself to acting—she recorded English singles like In My City and Exotic featuring will.i.am and Pitbull. Her international music career, backed by Universal, shows she's one of the rare Bollywood stars to break into global pop as a singer.

Classical roots matter

Alia Bhatt surprised everyone when she sang Samjhawan unplugged in Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania. Trained in classical music as a child, her soft, tuneful voice proved she's more than a screen presence—she's a hidden melody waiting to emerge.

SOULFUL FROM HEART

Shraddha Kapoor performed her own vocals in Ek Villain's Galliyan and later in Rock On 2. Her dulcet voice and on-stage confidence reflect training and passion for singing—a skill she inherited from her legendary father, Shakti Kapoor's musical lineage.

Rocker by night

Ayushmann Khurrana rose to fame not just for Vicky Donor, but also his song Pani Da Rang, which he co-wrote and sang himself. His soothing vocals and relatable lyrics have since become a signature, making him one of Bollywood's most consistent actor-musicians.

Sweet birthday wish

Anushka Sharma turned 37 today on Thursday, 1 May, and her husband Virat Kohli made sure the day had a big dose of love. The cricket star, known for keeping his posts meaningful and rare, shared a heartwarming birthday message for his wife on Instagram — and it's the kind of love letter that wins the internet.

Along with a beautiful photo of the couple dressed in matching white outfits, Virat wrote, "To my best friend, my life partner, my safe space, my best half, my everything. You're the guiding light of all of our lives. We love you so much more every day. Happy birthday, my love @ anushkasharma."

The post instantly caught the attention of fans and friends alike, with many dropping heart emojis and sweet wishes in the comments. Virat and Anushka are known to keep things low-key and personal, but when they do share a glimpse of their bond, it melts hearts every time. Anushka and Virat have been couple goals since they tied the knot in a dreamy ceremony in Tuscany, Italy, back in December 2017. From cheering each other on in stadiums to being each other's calm in the chaos, they've shown what true partnership looks like.

Their family grew with the arrival of their daughter Vamika in January 2021, and in February 2024, they welcomed their baby boy, Akaay. Even though Anushka has taken a break from the big screen, she's often seen supporting her husband at matches. **—ETimes**